

BAR MEMORIAL

to

VIRGINIA B. BLYTHE

(April 11, 1877 – March 4, 1954)

HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

May 1, 1954

BAR MEMORIAL

to

VIRGINIA B. BLYTHE

by

LOUISE A. HEROU

Virginia Blythe was born in Iowa on April 11, 1877, and at the time of her death, March 4, 1954, there were no known relatives. She came to Minneapolis some fifty years ago, was a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law, was admitted to the Bar of the State of Minnesota. After many years of active practice in her profession she retired in July of 1951 to become a resident of the Minnesota Soldiers' Home.

In paying tribute to the memory of Virginia Blythe, there is little known to tell of her personal history. She was very reticent as to her own affairs, but she had a keen and earnest interest in welfare and civic problems.

She was active in the Women's Welfare League and the Women's Co-operative Alliance, and was a pioneer in the Minneapolis Council of Federated Church Women. Since 1912, she was an active member of the Minneapolis Women's Rotary Club. As its representative she regularly attended and reported meetings of the Council of Civic Clubs. To her intimate friends, she was known as a great student of history and the Bible. Before choosing the law as her career, she planned to become a missionary and for many years was Secretary of a group who supported a missionary in China. After she was admitted to the practice of law, she devoted much of her time to eliminate the scourge of juvenile delinquency. On February 15, just before going into the hospital, she stated as follows in a letter:

"A youth who becomes a juvenile delinquent misses so much of life. This must no longer be permitted."

Virginia Blythe bore the burden of her own sorrow and tribulations silently, without complaint, but was always ready to be of service to others. Her life indeed represented loyal and unselfish devotion to her many friends and to all who were in need and sought her assistance.

May 1, 1954.

ADDENDUM

Virginia B. Blythe graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1912. She was admitted to the bar on June 14, 1912. At that time, her business address was 554 Security Building in Minneapolis.

Source: 1 *Roll of Attorneys: Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970* 116 (Minnesota State Law Library).

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